



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011



In Reply Refer To:
FWS-CP-11B0009-11CPA0012

NOV 24 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express the support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (CFWO) of the *Historical Ecology Study of North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands* (Study) proposal submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEL) and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The Study is expected to yield additional technical information needed for the planning and design of several coastal wetland restoration projects in which the CFWO is an active participant.

Historical ecological studies can yield new perspectives on "pre-development" spatial extent, water levels, and changes to surrounding plant communities relative to current coastal wetland conditions. A comprehensive understanding of historical landscapes (hydrology and topography) and the functional role of coastal wetland systems, given current conditions and constraints, can help inform resource agencies such as the Service in developing sustainable restoration alternatives. Additionally, information gained from the proposed study will assist in protecting and managing our Federal trust resources and contribute to the long-term conservation of these species.

The proposed Study will contribute information relevant to a previously funded cooperative agreement between SFEL, SCCWRP, and the Service, titled *Southern California Coastal Wetland Change Analysis*. We expect the results of the proposed Study to provide critical support to this change analysis effort by resolving additional uncertainties associated with the southern California region.

The Service is also interested in ensuring that climate change impacts (e.g., loss of tidal mudflats) are adequately addressed for proposed and ongoing coastal wetland restoration activities. A comparative historical analysis can provide additional insight into how wetland communities can be adaptively managed to respond to rising sea water levels while achieving the mission of resource agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Grizzle, Conservation Partnerships Program, at (760) 431-9440, extension 215.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Sobiech
Deputy Field Supervisor





California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



South Coast Region
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

November 10, 2010

Douglas Bosco, Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The California Department of the Fish and Game (Department), South Coast Region, is writing this letter to express its support for the **Historical Ecology Study of North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands** proposal submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. The Department is currently engaged in several coastal wetland restoration programs in northern San Diego County which would benefit from a clearer understanding of the historic conditions and ecological functions of these wetlands. This proposed study holds the promise of providing such information, which can then be factored into the planning and design of coastal lagoon restorations.

The goal of the Department is to create wetland restoration projects that reproduce historic ecological functions to the extent possible given the impacts of past agricultural practices, infrastructure and urbanization, and the availability of restoration funds. A historical ecology study of the northern San Diego County lagoon systems will give us a context for the restoration programs to help use design projects that mimic natural conditions where still possible, have long-term sustainability, and minimize long-term management costs.

The proposed study may be particularly helpful to the Department in regard to assessing the ecological history of the Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve. The historical condition of this lagoon has been questioned by certain parties that could potentially be involved in the restoration of this currently freshwater lagoon. This lagoon has a weir at the lagoon mouth currently preventing regular tidal flow into the lagoon. The Department is particularly interested in how the proposed historical ecology study might help answer the question as to the history of tidal influences on this lagoon. We would request that the study focus on Buena Vista Lagoon in particular, as this information may be key to proceeding with any active restoration of this lagoon in the near future.

Should the California Coastal Conservancy move forward in funding this study, the Department will continue to cooperate and consult with the researchers as needed to produce a final project that will provide valuable planning information for future coastal wetland restorations in San Diego County. If you have questions regarding this letter please contact David Lawhead, Department Staff Environmental Scientist, at (858) 627-3997.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert
Regional Manager
South Coast Region

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Exhibit 2: Project Letters

California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4353
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<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

October 27, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR HISTORICAL ECOLOGY STUDY

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to conduct a **Historical Ecology Study of North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands** that was submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The proposed study would provide critical information for planning and design of important restoration projects at coastal wetlands in the San Diego Region, including San Elijo Lagoon and Buena Vista Lagoon.

The proposed study would address a significant data gap for restoration design, planning, and management of the coastal wetlands of North San Diego County. This information will inform development of sustainable restoration strategies that are supported to the greatest possible extent by natural processes. The proposed study would help maximize long-term restoration potential, water quality benefits, and resilience to climate change, as well as improve understanding of the limitations imposed by anthropogenic activities, so that realistic, attainable restoration targets can be set.

We believe the proposed study would be useful to the San Diego Water Board, the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (of which the San Diego Water Board is a member), and other state and federal agencies with roles in protecting and restoring the health of coastal wetlands in North San Diego County.

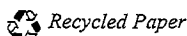
Thank you for considering this important proposal.

If you have any questions pertaining to the subject matter, please contact Bruce Posthumus at 858-467-2964 or bposthumus@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DAVID W. GIBSON
Executive Officer

California Environmental Protection Agency





San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and its watershed

P. O. Box 230634

Encinitas, California

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T 760 436-3944

F 760 944-9606

www.sanelijo.org

October 25, 2010

Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the ***Historical Ecology Study of North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands*** proposal submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). The Study will provide critical information for the planning and design of several important coastal wetland restoration projects, including San Elijo and Buena Vista lagoons.

The Study will address a significant data gap for restoration design, planning, and management of the coastal wetlands of North San Diego County. This information will inform the development of sustainable restoration strategies that are supported to the greatest possible extent by natural processes. The Study will help coastal wetland projects maximize long-term restoration potential, water quality benefits, and resilience to climate change as well as help understand the limitations imposed by anthropogenic activities, so that realistic, attainable restoration targets can be set.

As the executive director of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, I feel that the Study will be particularly important to help us address both current management and future restoration strategies. The Coastal Conservancy has already invested significant dollars to this wetland and managing it will be crucial given future uncertainties of climate change and sea level rise. By better understanding the past, we can better plan for the future.

Thank you for the consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Doug Gibson
Executive Director



Founded in 1928

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sandieghistory.org

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November 9, 2010

Mr. Douglas Bosco
Chairman of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express support for the *Historical Ecology Study of North San Diego County Coastal Wetlands* proposal submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). My understanding is that the study will provide critical information for the planning and design of several important coastal wetland restoration projects, including San Elijo and Buena Vista lagoons.

The study will address a significant data gap for restoration design, planning, and management of the coastal wetlands of North San Diego County. This information will inform the development of sustainable restoration strategies that are supported to the greatest possible extent by natural processes. The study will help coastal wetland projects maximize long-term restoration potential, water quality benefits, and resilience to climate change as well as help understand the limitations imposed by anthropogenic activities, so that realistic, attainable restoration targets can be set.

As the premier repository for maps, manuscripts, and other material relating to the history of San Diego County, the San Diego History Center will be pleased to make its resources available for the study. In addition, the History Center is extremely interested in incorporating historical ecology into future interactive exhibitions and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with SFEI and SCCWRP.

Thank you for the consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. KAHN
Executive Director